

June 25, 2019

NO-COST HIV TESTING TO HIGHLIGHT HIV TESTING DAY

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Lecanto, FL — National HIV Testing Day, June 27, has been observed since 1995 to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing and early diagnosis of HIV. This year's theme, "Doing It My Way," highlights how and why people make testing a part of their lives.

To encourage people to know their HIV status within minutes, the Florida Department of Health in Citrus County (DOH-Citrus) is providing no-cost HIV testing from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, at the Citrus Health Department, 3700 W. Sovereign Path in Lecanto.

In 2017, 116,944 Floridians were confirmed to be living with HIV. An estimated 18,000 more were living with HIV but unaware of it. "To see these numbers come down in our state, we need to recognize the role of stigma as a barrier to getting tested," said department HIV/AIDS Section Administrator Laura Reeves. "Normalizing HIV testing and making sure there's a testing option that works for everyone is one way to reduce stigma. This is important, because knowing your HIV status gives you the power to make informed decisions about your health. Our goal is to work with our partners to make sure every Floridian has that power."

For more information about HIV testing sites in Florida, please call 1-800-FLA-AIDS or visit KnowYourHIVStatus.com.

For more information about DOH-Citrus, go to www.CitrusCountyHealth.org or follow us on Twitter at [@FLHealthCitrus](https://twitter.com/FLHealthCitrus).

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](http://PublicHealthAccreditationBoard.org), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

Get tested. Share your story. Use the hashtag. #DoingItMyWay



#DoingItMyWay

JUNE 27

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